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*Stated Meeting, April 6th, 1860.*

Present, twenty-four members.

DR. WOOD, President, in the Chair.

Letters were read from the Smithsonian Institution, dated January 10, 1860, from the Geographical Society of Paris, Feb. 20, 1860, from the Boston Public Library, Feb. 21, 1860, from the Massachusetts Historical Society, March 13, 1860, acknowledging the receipt of publications of the Society.

The following donations for the Library were announced :—

Bulletin de la Soc. Géog. I, xviii, July—Dec. '59.—*From the Society.*  
Monthly Notices R. Astron. Soc. Vol. xx, No. 4.—*From the Society.*  
Proc. Bost. Soc. Nat. Hist. vii, signatures 13, 14.—*From the Society.*  
Proc. Acad. Nat. Sci. Phila. 1860, sig. 4.—*From the Academy.*

Ann. Lyc. Nat. Hist. N. York, Vol. vii, Nos. 1–3.—*From the Lyceum.*  
Amer. Jour. of Science, New Haven, March, 1860.—*From the Editors.*  
Amer. Jour. of Med. Sci. April, 1860.—*From Blanchard & Lea.*  
Med. News & Libr., Mar. & Apr., 1860.—*From Blanchard & Lea.*  
Jour. of Franklin Inst. No. 411, March, 1860.—*From the Institute.*  
History of the Religious Society of Friends, by S. M. Janney, in four Vols. Vol. 1, second edition, 480 pp. 8vo. Phila. 1860.—*From the Author.*

What may be Learned from a Tree, by Harland Coultas. Second edition, 200 pp. 8vo. Phila. 1860.—*From the Author.*

Ann. Address on the Events of the Year, before the Phil. Co. Medical Soc., Feb. 22, 1860, by Benjamin Horner Coates, M.D., 30 pp. 8vo. Phila. 1860.—*From the Author.*

Communication from the Director of the Mint to the Secretary of the Treasury, relative to a proposed Branch Mint at New York, 12 pp. 8vo. Phila. 1860.—*From the Board of Trade.*

Total Eclipse of July, 1860, 6 pp. 8vo. Washington, 1860.—*From the Nautical Almanac Office.*

Reflections upon the Temporary Star of 1572, by Alex. Wilcocks, M.D., 12 pp. 4to. Phila. 1840.—*From the Author.*

Obs. on the Genus Unio, by Isaac Lea, Vol. vii.—*From the Author.*

Extracts from Proc. A. N. S. Phil., by Isaac Lea, 24 pp. 8vo.—*From the Author.*

Polar Exploring Expedition. A Special Meeting of the Am. Geog.

and Stat. Soc., March 22, 30 pp. 8vo., with Map, New York, 1860.—*From W. P. Foulke.*

PAULDING (J. K.)—Prof. Trego announced the death of a member of the Society, the Honorable James K. Paulding, April 4th, 1860, aged 81.

Dr. Emerson called the attention of the Society to a fact in optics, which seems to have been but little noticed. A very simple experiment illustrating the combined action of the mental and optical faculties concerned in vision. A person standing before a mirror, holding a picture before him, with its face also towards the mirror, will find the reflection of the hands or right and left sides of a picture reversed, the right hand appearing the left and the left the right. But this reversion does not extend to the person holding the picture, or others by his side, whose right and left sides are recognized only as right and left. This illustrates the effects of education of the eye, which having recognized through repeated observations the true relations of the two sides and hands, admits without hesitation the mental evidence, but refuses to accept any but optical evidence from the flat surface of the picture.

Dr. Leyburn, pursuant to appointment, read the following obituary notice of the Rev. J. Addison Alexander, a deceased member of the Society.

## OBITUARY NOTICE OF JOSEPH ADDISON ALEXANDER, D.D.

BY JOHN LEYBURN, D.D.

Joseph Addison Alexander, was the third son of the late Archibald Alexander, D.D., of Princeton, N. J., and was born in the city of Philadelphia, April 24th, 1809. On his maternal side he was the grandson of James Waddell, the celebrated blind preacher of Virginia, immortalized by Wirt in the *British Spy*. His father having removed from Philadelphia to Princeton, young Alexander became a student of the College of New Jersey, where he graduated in 1826, with valedictorian honors, a great achievement for a youth of seven-

full and almost plethoric appearance, and had begun to wear the aspect of premature old age. Some months before his death, he was attacked with bleeding at his lungs; this, however, was but one of the effects of another disease, which had been for some time prostrating and wearing down his health. The real destroyer of his life was that exhausting and terrible complaint, *diabetes*. From this he had suffered, unknown even to his friends. His end at last came, with but little indication that it was just at hand, and in a few hours after an attack which rendered him insensible he breathed his last. But to him the event was evidently not unanticipated. His mind had been more than usually engaged in devotion, and it is worthy of remark, as illustrative of the simplicity of his piety, that he occupied himself during much of his time after he was disabled from severe study, in committing hymns to memory. But instead of chanting in Greek the ancient hymn of Clemens Alexandrinus, or some other such time-honored lyric, which a scholar like himself might have been supposed to prefer, his favorite hymn was that so often sung in the prayer-meetings of the humblest Christians :

“Just as I am, without one plea,  
But that thy blood was shed for me,” &c.

His splendid intellect and his vast resources were all brought into subjection to his Christian faith. He had no fellowship with that pride of learning which exalts itself even above the revelations of Divine wisdom. He was as lowly in his estimation of himself, as he was exalted in the opinions of his fellow-men, and especially did he regard himself as incompetent to sit in judgment upon his Maker, and decide, as too many attempt to do, what he should and what he should not have revealed.

On the 28th of January, 1860, Joseph Addison Alexander died, and was laid beside his eminent father and brother, and a galaxy of the illustrious dead, in the graveyard at Princeton.

Pending nomination, No. 397 was read.

Mr. Foulke, on behalf of the Committee on the Library,

read a report from the Committee on the Condition of the Library, its rearrangement, and the preparation of a new Catalogue, offering the following resolutions, which, on motion, were adopted:—

*Resolved*: That the Treasurer is hereby directed to refund to the Librarian of the Society, the sum of four hundred and sixty-six dollars and fifteen cents, paid by the Librarian for assistance in rearranging and cataloguing its library. *Resolved*: That the Librarian is hereby authorized to make in conjunction with the Committee on the Library, the arrangements necessary for printing a catalogue of the books in the Library of the Society.

Dr. Leidy presented a list of plaster casts of natural history belonging to the Society, and moved that the casts therein mentioned be deposited with the Academy of Natural Sciences, upon the same conditions as a deposit formerly made by the Society with the Academy, a complete list of said casts to be presented at a future meeting, which was agreed to.

A communication was read from Prof. A. D. Bache, requesting the signatures of the officers of the Society to a memorial to Congress, in relation to observations proposed to be made of the eclipse of the sun on the 18th of July next, recommending the sanction of Congress to the making of observations by the officers of the United States Coast Survey. On motion of Prof. Cresson, the officers of the Society were authorized to affix their signatures to the said memorial.

On motion of Prof. Kendall, the St. Louis Academy of Science and the American Oriental Society of New Haven were authorized to receive the Transactions of the Society.

And the Society adjourned.

*Stated Meeting, April 20, 1860.*

Present, nineteen members.

DR. FRANKLIN BACHE in the Chair.

Dr. F. W. Lewis, a newly-elected member, was presented to the President by Dr. Le Conte.